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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/784,368	02/15/2001	Fred S. Cook	1471	2955

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EXAMINER

MCCLELLAN, JAMES S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/784,368

Applicant(s)

COOK, FRED S.

Examiner

James S McClellan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 10-17, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,000,608 (Dorf).

Regarding **claim 1**, Dorf discloses a method of registering a product using a code processing system (see column 3, lines 9-27), the method comprising: in a point of sale system (POS 105; see column 4, line 28), obtaining a communication code that is associated with the product and transmitting the communication code; and in the code processing system (Processing Hub 103; see column 4, line 22), receiving the communication code (see column 3, lines 12-13), processing the communication code to determine manufacturer information for the product (see column 7, lines 7-10), generating a product registration request (see column 7, lines 11-13), transmitting the product registration request to a manufacturer registration system based on the manufacturer information for registration of the product (see column 7, lines 11-13), generating a communication code activation request responsive to receiving the communication code, and transmitting the communication code activation request and the communication code to a communication code activation system for activation of the communication code (see column 7, lines 21-28); [**claim 2**] the communication code comprises a phone card code (see column 4, line

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21); **[claim 3]** the communication code comprises a pre-paid phone card code (see column 4, line 21); **[claim 4]** the product is packaged with a pre-paid phone card that includes the pre-paid phone card code (see column 4, line 21); **[claim 5]** in the code processing system, receiving a charge authorization request and a financial card number from the point of sale system, transmitting the charge authorization request and the financial card number to a financial network, receiving an authorization response from the financial network, and transmitting the authorization response to the point of sale system (POS 105 inherently includes credit card processing/authorization features through bank 102); **[claim 6]** the financial network comprises a credit card system (POS 105 inherently includes credit card processing/authorization features through bank 102); **[claim 10]** the code processing system comprises a database that includes the manufacturer information (see column 7, lines 3-5); **[claim 11]** the code processing system communicates with the point of sale system, the manufacturer registration system, and the communication code activation system over a Public Switched Telephone Network (see column 6, lines 61-63).

Regarding **claims 12-22**, the Examiner relies on the detailed description set forth above for similar claims 1-11 to reject claims 12-22 in order not to burden the Office Action with a redundant claim mapping analysis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7-9, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorf in view of US Patent Publication No. US 2001/0025245 A1 (Flickinger et al.).

Regarding **claims 7-9 and 18-20**, Dorf disclose each of the limitations as set forth above, but fails to explicitly disclose generating the product registration request comprises generating a warranty activation request to activate a warranty on the product with a manufacturer; in the code processing system, receiving a warranty activation response from the manufacturer registration system identifying if the warranty is activated; and in the point of sale system, receiving the warranty activation response from the code processing system and printing a warranty activation certificate based on the warranty activation response.

Flickinger et al. teaches the use of generating the product registration request comprises generating a warranty activation request to activate a warranty on the product with a manufacturer; in the code processing system, receiving a warranty activation response from the manufacturer registration system identifying if the warranty is activated; and in the point of sale system, receiving the warranty activation response from the code processing system and printing a warranty activation certificate based on the warranty activation response (see paragraph 0038 on page 4, "A registration verification or certificate (electronic or otherwise) could be provided to the purchaser confirming registration, warranty and other information").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Dorf with the warranty registration as taught by Flickinger et al., because automatic warranty registration increases the likelihood of product registration (see Flickinger et

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al., paragraph 0006 on page 1), whereby helping ensure that the consumer receives full warranty benefits and allowing the manufacturer to more efficiently gather marketing data.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Stimson et al. is cited of interest for disclosing a prepaid card system and method.

Dorf '787 is cited of interest for disclosing a multifunction card system.

Tidball et al. is cited of interest for disclosing a method for account activation.

Ronchi et al. is cited of interest for disclosing a method for issuing prepaid calling cards.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jim McClellan whose telephone number is (703) 305-0212. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski, can be reached at (703) 308-5183.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

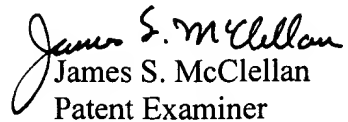
Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 305-7687 (Official communications) or
(703) 746-3516 (Informal/Draft communications).

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Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.


James S. McClellan
Patent Examiner
A.U. 3627

jsm

January 21, 2002